
OTTAWA LEGAL CLINICS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015

OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION

This month the Steering Committee has been focussing on ways to ensure all those that need and wish to be engaged in the transformation project have every opportunity to access information and make their voices heard . This includes expanding the distribution of newsletters like this one, and providing more opportunities for people to communicate with leaders of the project in person.

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES STAFF VISITS

Over the month of December we have been meeting one-on-one with staff members of all three participating legal clinics. The interviews were 30 minutes to one hour long, and were held in each of the community legal clinics. The goal of the interviews was to gain a better understanding of how staff roles and relationships will change in the new amalgamated legal clinic, as well as opportunities and concerns about those changes. These conversations will inform the development of an organizational model for the amalgamated clinic. These conversations will also inform the topics that are discussed in the next phases of the project, including the topics for staff working groups that will be established in early 2016.

In January, the results of these one-on-one interviews will be available to read on the project website www.ottawaclinics.ca.

BYLAW SUBCOMMITTEE

An amalgamated legal clinic will need a new “constitution” or operating bylaw. In November and December, our steering committee reviewed a proposed bylaw. It deals with important matters including the proposed name for the new organization; the structure of the Board of Directors and how to transition from three separate Boards of Directors to one; and who the “members” of the new organization would be. Now that we have a draft to work with, the steering committee will ask for further input from clinic staff members and Board members. We will also get legal advice about it; and then ask the three Boards of Directors to consider the final draft.

WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH

The Steering Committee understands that in this phase of the project, the most important thing is open and frequent communication. Below are a number of ways that you can learn more about the project, and share your concerns and feedback to make sure your voice is heard throughout the transformation:

IN-PERSON

- From January to June in 2016, a number of engagement activities will be planned, including workshops and working groups of staff and boards, and public community meetings. More information about these will be posted to www.ottawaclinics.ca.

BY CORRESPONDENCE

- If you would like to get in touch with us by email, please contact us at info@ottawaclinics.ca
- If you would like to get in touch with us by phone, please call Gary Stein at 613-733-0140 extension 22.

ONLINE

- Visit www.ottawaclinics.ca to read results of activities we are doing, the results from the one-on-one discussions with staff will be posted there soon!
- You can receive newsletters like this one directly to your email, by filling out the form [here](#).
- You can receive newsletters like this one in hard copy to your physical address by emailing your name and address to info@ottawaclinics.ca
- The Steering Committee meets every other week, you can read the minutes from the meetings at <http://www.ottawaclinics.ca/the-steering-committee.html>

NEXT STEPS

Now that we have met with all staff from the three participating legal clinics, the next step will be to review and analyze responses from the discussions. Once these are analyzed, there will then be a workshop with all staff. This workshop will be both to check that we captured the responses accurately but also to dig deeper into some of the concerns and opportunities raised in the one-on-one discussions.

To learn more about this process, please visit www.ottawaclinics.ca.

To contact us, please email info@ottawaclinics.ca.